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SUBJECT: OMAN AIR TO ADD DREAMLINERS TO FLEET

REF: MUSCAT 825

(SBU) On October 7, Oman Air Commercial Director Alan Arch confirmed to Econoff that the airline would acquire six Boeing 787 aircraft from Kuwait-based Aviation Lease and Finance Company. The deliveries, according to Arch, would be staggered, with the Oman Air adding the first B787 to its fleet in 2012, with subsequent deliveries in 2014 and 2015. The acquisition will create a mixed wide-body fleet for the airline, as the company already has five A330s on order. Arch said that the addition of the signature Boeing aircraft was important to burnishing the brand image of Oman Air as it begins to expand its long-haul service, and that Boeing planes, which the company operates on its short-haul flights, are well-regarded by senior management and pilots.

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